

On the west side of the river we passed Orton Plantation, probably named from the beautiful old town of Orton, in England, from whence the ancestors of the Moore family came to the Barbadoes and thence to America. There are 9,990 acres at Orton, and Mr. James Sprunt, the present owner, conducts it as a beauty spot rather than exploiting it for agricultural purposes.

Here is a fine game preserve and those who are invited to enjoy the pleasures of the chase seldom fail to return well laden. There is a famous colony of white cranes at Orton inhabiting a lake of several hundred acres. There are also many mammoth cypress trees in the lake on one of which is an eagle's nest authentically recorded to have been annually occupied by eagles for over one hundred years.

Fort Anderson and Fort Fisher, now but dreary and hardly noticed landmarks, were scenes of fierce conflict during the Civil War. A movement is on foot which deserves success to make Fort Fisher a National Park, and to preserve it for future generations.

Fort Caswell, at the mouth of Cape Fear River, is maintained as a Government fortification with several hundred soldiers for the garrison. Just up the river is the Marine Quarantine Station built on piers in mid-river, while off to the eastward is Bald Head Island with light-houses at either end.

Here tropical vegetation flourishes; thousands of palmettos reaching fifty feet or so in height make the place seem like a stray island from the West Indies. There are said to be forty-seven kinds of vegetation not found on the mainland. Here the proximity is close to the Gulf stream, some thirty-five miles off shore. Coon and squirrel shooting on the island is famous, as the number of these seem unlimited.

On a point at the western mouth of the river is old Southport, embowered in beautiful groves of wide-spreading live oaks. Southport is rich in traditions, and one can hardly find a more interesting spot, or one more provincial than here. There has never been a railroad enter the town, though one is contemplated and

expected in the near future; nor has the annual visitation of several hundred "boarders" left a perceptible change upon



A PICTURESQUE SPOT AT SOUTHPORT

the original sturdy character of the people.

* * *

Wilson on the Atlantic Coast Line and also on the Norfolk & Southern Railway is a thriving town of between six and seven thousand inhabitants. Fine agricultural country surrounds, and there are industries of cotton manufacture and carriage-making, etc., that employ many people. Wilson is also an important tobacco market.

* * *

Goldsboro was a point of importance strategically during the Civil War, and several battles and skirmishes took place



MISS KATE STUART'S ANCESTRAL HOME
Southport

near the town. Today, Goldsboro is a centre of good agricultural country, and there is industrial growth by the location of cotton mills, wood-working plants and tobacco warehouses.